

Romans 3 – The Satisfaction of God’s Justice (Romans 3:1-31)

- I. God’s Justice is Right (Rom. 3:1-8)
 - A. God’s Word is not nullified by Sin (1-4a)
 - 1. The Jews are blessed with God’s Word (1-2)
 - 2. The Jews lack of faith does not make God unfaithful (3-4a)
 - B. God’s Justice is not nullified by Sin (4b-8)
 - 1. God is right to judge evil (4b)
 - 2. God is compelled to judge evil (5-6)
 - 3. Men who think otherwise are condemned (7-8)
- II. God’s Justice Cannot be Satisfied by Man (Rom. 3:9-18)
 - A. Jews Are not better off than Gentiles (9)
 - B. There is no one Righteous (10-18)
 - 1. All Men’s minds are corrupt (3:11)
 - 2. All Men’s actions are corrupt (12)
 - 3. All Men’s speech is corrupt (13-14)
 - 4. All Men’s desires are corrupt (15-18)
- III. God’s Justice is Satisfied By Jesus Alone (Rom. 3:19-31)
 - A. Jesus Gives what the law cannot (19-22a)
 - 1. The Law does not give life (19-20)
 - a. The Law only condemns (19)
 - b. The Law cannot redeem anyone (20)
 - 2. God’s Righteousness gives life (21-22a)
 - B. Jesus Satisfies God’s Justice (22b-25)
 - 1. All are sinners who need salvation (22b-24)
 - 2. God gave Jesus for Men’s salvation (3:25)
 - C. Jesus Justifies Men (26-31)
 - 1. God remains just and justifies the sinner (26)
 - 2. God justifies all the same way (27-28)
 - a. God does the justifying not man (27-28)
 - b. God chooses to justify all the same way (29-30)
 - D. Jesus fulfills the Law (31)

Romans 3 - Justice and the Gospel

What we have learned so far in Romans is that both Jews and Gentiles are rightly under the condemnation of God. It is very hard to just leave it like that isn't it? Up till now, Paul hasn't made any attempt to give anyone in

the world hope. Basically, he has simply said, “you are all doomed!”

Of course, here in chapter 3, Paul will finally get to the gospel but do you notice that today, we do not evangelize like Paul and the apostles? We tell people about the hope of Jesus Christ, but we often leave out the “bad news” of God’s wrath, sin, and the coming judgment. In fact, because we have forgotten to include this proclamation in the Gospel, many people are confused as to why they need a savior.

The truth is that many of us have a distorted view of what sin is. Sin is not just a disease we suffer from, or just a trap we fall into. It is not simply making mistakes, or messing up. Sin is committing a crime against the holiness of God. We are not the victims. We are the criminals.

The Bible actually says it is an abomination to the Lord for the wicked to be justified. Proverbs 17:15 declares, “He who justifies the wicked and he who condemns the righteous, Both of them alike are an abomination to the LORD.” Please do not miss the significance. If anyone, including God, arbitrarily justifies the wicked, it is an abomination in His sight. Modern man proclaims at the top of his lungs, “It is wrong for God not to forgive.” The Bible takes the exact opposite view. Because of God’s perfect righteousness, it is wrong for God to forgive the sinner. Let me say that again, *it is wrong for God to arbitrarily forgive sinners!*

After he gave us life, health, and blessings, we have broken into His kingdom, and pillaged His castle. We storm the very gates of His goodness for our selfish gain. Mangling and cursing His name, we rob him of the glory and honor due him and we set fire to His righteous work. We seek to throw him off His throne and exalt ourselves. We are spoiled, disobedient slaves who attempt to kill our good Master. We raid and plunder His treasure and we have killed His only Son. And now we stand proud in His courtroom, believing ourselves innocent of all charges. By proclaiming our goodness, and teaching doctrines that exalt our self-esteem and material blessing, we, yet again, spit in His face in the most sinful and horrible of insults by claiming ourselves . . . good.

That is pretty intense isn't it? Here is the point of Romans chapter 3. We are all rightly condemned. Paul says, there is not a single person on the planet that does good, not a single one (Rom. 3:10) No one seeks for God...no one (Rom. 3:11)

Now do you believe that? Really believe it? *Nobody?*

Paul is leaving his readers (both Jew and Gentile) with absolutely no hope before he shares the gospel with them. This is the way we should do it as well. Chapter 1-3 is nothing more than Paul illustrating God's wrath toward the sinner, and just when all hope is gone...Paul says, "But now..." (Rom. 3:21). Now the righteousness of God (which is the only thing that can save us) has appeared without the law...Jesus!

"...being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood..." Rom. 3:24-25.

Today, men are said to be hateful and unloving if they explain God's wrath regarding sin to people. They are looked upon with disdain and disgust. But, is it unloving if it is true? Is it unloving to yell a warning at a man who is about to walk over a cliff? Is it unloving to yell "fire" to a family who is unknowingly trapped in a burning building?

It does not feel very good, and the world still looks at us with disgust, but there is nothing more loving than warning men that our God is a righteous God who loves justice. Perfect justice means that every sin...every single sin...will be punished perfectly. The tiniest sin will stain perfection and make it not perfect anymore; therefore God (in order to remain perfect) must punish every sin. Even the smallest of sins. Paul says that you (and I) lack any goodness. He says that you (and I) are not good, do not understand, do not seek God. He says that you (and I) have poison on our lips and our hearts desire to do evil. If you refuse to accept the judgment God has placed on us, you cannot accept the savior. It is a matter of faith. Faith in what God has said and done. We are condemned. We are wretched, wicked, blind beggars who reach out and take the gracious hand

of the King of Kings! And there we are given the righteousness of God Himself!

Lance Latham, who served as the president of the AWANA organization for thirty-five years stated, "Many who understand the gospel refuse to come to Christ because they will not admit that they lack a shred of goodness, righteousness or desirability within themselves that God can accept."

While it is true that there is no one good by God's standards. Jesus gives us His perfect standard when He saves us. He transfers His goodness and perfection to our account and takes the punishment for our sin on the cross.

The only way sinful man can stand before a holy God is in the perfect saving power of Jesus Christ and the sacrifice He gave.